



THE SPANISH CONSPIRATORS

—after Franco who?

by BOB EDWARDS, M.P. and AUGUSTIN ROA

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"We call upon all with humanitarian feelings to join together in the demand for an amnesty and the restoration of civil rights in Spain".

At an earlier meeting of the British Parliamentary Group for Spanish Freedom it was my pleasure to welcome the Spanish poet Marcos Ana who had been released from the Central prison at Burgos after serving a sentence of 23 years. Another poet of Spain, Manuel Moreno Barranco, is alleged to have committed suicide in the Jeréz de la Frontera prison. The prison Governor claimed that this young poet committed suicide by throwing himself from a balcony in the prison. A few days previously, it is reported, one of the guards informed him in the all too familiar phrase of Spanish prison guards "Not even God can save you". The only crime that Manuel Moreno Barranco has committed was to assist in the formation of a group of young Spaniards to discuss and study modern literature. The death of this young poet has not yet been officially announced. It took place only 10 days after his arrest on the 13th February, 1963. The mother of this young man was informed by the police that her son intended to commit suicide and, although in hospital, she was not allowed to see him although he was supposed, at that time, to be still alive. It is significant that before Julián Grimau was sentenced to death and shot the Spanish police made similar statements that he had tried to commit suicide. This, apparently, is a new systematic way of elimination in Spanish prisons today.

This introduction is lengthy but perhaps necessarily so in its attempt to bring to the attention of a new generation, who did not experience the emotional upsurge of the struggle in Spain in the thirties, the fight for freedom that still continues against the conspirators who imposed the present dictatorship on Spain and whose sinister ramifications might yet bring us to the brink of a third World War.

BOB EDWARDS

London, August 1963.